>

Title: Need to take stps to waive off of agricultural loans to real sufferers.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (NAGERCOIL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the funding package of Rs.60,314 crore announced in the Budget to provide for the complete waiver of loans to small and marginal farmers is receiving mixed responses in the country. In this regard, I want to make four points.

The first and foremost is the equity in waiver. The blanket ceiling of 2 hectares for full loan waiver is in no way helpful to all. Two hectares of dry land in a rain-fed area should not be equated with that of an irrigated area. So, the criteria for the waiver should be based on the productivity of the farm land.

Secondly, the blanket yardstick that the borrowings from credit institutions will alone be waived is practically an unwise stipulation because it is reported that a cursory survey reveals that only 22 per cent of the total farmers in the country are institutional borrowers and most of the remaining farmers borrow from local money lenders, neighbours and friends.[R59] [r60]A suitable mechanism should be, therefore, designed.

Sir, third one is the most important, urgent and in-depth consideration. It is an accepted fact that nearly 35 per cent of the farming community are landless agricultural labourers. They are living upon farm operations. For that they pledge their gold belongings, etc. and are getting loans from the institutions. Those loans also should be waived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing more should go on record.

(Interruptions) â€¦*